

Please amend the following claims.

Claim 53 (amended) A water insoluble bead comprising droplets of an oil in water emulsion in a polymer matrix, wherein said polymer matrix comprises a protein and a polysaccharide and the oil in water emulsion comprises at least one volatile hydrophobic component, a surface active agent and water, the volatile hydrophobic component, surface active agent and polymer matrix being selected and being present in the bead such that the bead is storable in water without release of the volatile component and such that the volatile component is released from said water insoluble bead in atmospheric air.

Claim 55 (amended) The water insoluble bead according to claim 53, wherein said protein is selected from the group consisting of gelatin, albumin, casein and lactoglobulin.

Claim 56 (amended) The water insoluble bead according to claim 53, wherein the polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of sodium alginate, carraggenan, guar gum, locus bean gum, chitosan, pectin and carboxy methyl cellulose.

Claim 72 (amended) The water insoluble bead according to claim 53, wherein said protein is a gelatin.

Claim 75 (amended) The water insoluble bead according to claim 53, further comprising tannic acid in an amount effective to provide a release rate of the volatile

component from said bead in atmospheric air that is slower than a release rate of the volatile component from the bead in atmospheric air without the tannic acid.

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Claim 76 (amended) A process for preparing a sustained-release dispersion of a plurality of water insoluble beads according to claim 53 for release of the volatile hydrophobic component therefrom in atmospheric air, comprising:

- a) preparing an oil/water emulsion by homogenizing the volatile hydrophobic component in water, using at least one surface active molecule;
- b) mixing said emulsion with at least one water-soluble polymer and optionally rehomogenizing the mixture;
- c) adding the emulsion prepared in step (b) in a dropwise manner into a gellant solution to form said water insoluble beads;
- d) recovering the water insoluble beads from the gellant solution; and
- e) storing the recovered beads in water.

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REMARKS

The Official Action of December 3, 2002 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The recitations of claim 54 have been incorporated into claim 53, and claim 54 has been canceled. The recitation from claim 55 pertaining to the polymer matrix also comprising a polysaccharide has also been incorporated into claim 53 in accordance